

**MAST PTSA
Minutes of Meeting
October 19, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by President Adam Hubeny at 7:12 P.M. in the meeting room of the Eastern Branch, Monmouth County Library, in Shrewsbury NJ. . Adam welcomed the membership (fifty one people were in attendance) and explained that the Co-President, Diane Hubeny, and vice presidents Stanley and Sakeena McGregory were unable to attend.

Adam explained the structure of the PTSA for new members. The PTSA Executive Committee consists of the Co-Presidents(2), Vice Presidents (3), Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary. The Executive Committee works with the Executive Board, which consists of the Committee Chairpersons, and reports to the membership who vote to accept, or reject, proposed funding, policies and practices of the PTSA as it seeks to fulfill its mission statement.

June Meeting minutes were proposed for acceptance by the membership and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Executive Committee Members present:

President: Adam Hubeny

Vice President: Jill Henry

Treasurer: Barbara Ilaria

Corresponding Secretary: Anne Davidson

Recording Secretary: Helene Hagen

Mrs. Betsy Hoffman, Faculty Representative, was also in attendance.

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Ilaria provided a financial report showing total assets as of October 19, 2009 of \$59,241.22 with a money market account balance of \$55,343.07 and a checking account balance of \$3,898.15. This included receipts generated so far this school year: membership dues to date of \$3655.00, directory sale profit of \$140.00, and after cost profit from the Spaghetti dinner of \$1,047.36.

Vice President's Report: Jill Henry reported on the Monmouth County Vocational School District's Joint meeting of the five Career Academy's Parent Teacher organizations held at High Tech HS earlier this month. She noted that they shared information on 'best practices' and also on shortcomings. Adam interjected that we are the wealthiest of the organizations in terms of assets in hand. He attributed this to a success in engaging parents to become involved in the MAST community, although acknowledging that we did not have 100% involvement.

Jill welcomed a representative of HTHS PFA who was in attendance hoping to learn about our practices and report back to his fellow members.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Anne Davidson reported on thank you notes received from Dr. Christopher and several teachers for our efforts and funding last year as well as the 'welcome back' teacher's breakfast hosted by the PTSA. The Key Club had sent a note of appreciation for contributions to their Beach Party. Former Treasurer Toni Dona sent a note of thanks for the camaraderie and support experienced during her tenure with the PTSA. In addition, thank you notes were received from Class of 2009 PTSA scholarship recipient Kevin Iannacone.

Recording Secretary: Helene Hagen noted there was nothing to report at this time.

Committee Reports:

Driver's Education- Pam Donegan was not present until after the report read by Adam. A Driving School will again conduct the 30 hour classroom training portion of the Driver's Education process to be held after school here at MAST with a tentative start date in February or early March, and an estimated cost of \$130. More information will be forthcoming in the near future for sophomore and junior parents.

Jill Henry noted that Coast Auto Driving School (who runs the classroom course at HTHS and Communication) offers a Home Study classroom course, which could be useful for some students who can't stay after, or who miss signing up for the class (which is only offered once per school year) Graduating Home Study students receive a card of completion just like the Classroom course given at the school.

Hospitality- Trude Arnette reported that she and Joanna Sufficool had served refreshments at the two Information Sessions for prospective students, as well as served the 'Welcome Back' teacher's breakfast.

Gift Auction- Iris Marketta reported for herself and co-chair Roseann Brandl on the preparations to date for the November 13, 2009 Gift Auction at Gibbs Hall. Donations and reservations are behind last year at this date. Iris urged people to send in their reservation requests, and any donations planned. Ads can be purchased as well, either by businesses or in honor of your student and will be included in the Gift Auction pamphlet distributed to all attendees. Donations can be sent in to the school office marked for 'Gift Auction' and Iris will check daily for them. Members are urged to come and join in a great night of fun and prizes.

Super Raffle- Phil Peluso indicated that plans were in place for the Super Raffle mailing later this year.

Clothing- Dot Lucyk reported sales had been brisk at back to school night but a little slow at the Spaghetti Dinner. She will also be offering special gift ideas in MAST clothing in time for holiday gifts. However, the cutoff for orders and pickup will be earlier this year.

Family Picnic- No report.

Spaghetti Dinner- no report

SAT/PSAT Prep- Marianne Morse was unable to attend but had sent word that the PSAT Prep course offered here at MAST October 6,8, and 13 by the Princeton Review had been well attended. Twenty nine students had enrolled and paid the reduced fee negotiated by the PTSA. An SAT Prep course will be held in March 2010 in advance of the Spring SAT test dates, as long as the minimum of ten students enroll in the program.

Directory – Keith Dwight noted preliminary sales of 101 directories had already taken place. He wanted to acknowledge Cathy Hawn and Adam Hubeny's help in proof reading the directory before being sent to print.

Graduation- No report.

Membership- Dwight Hakim noted that 174 families had joined the PTSA for the 2009-2010 school year. He noted that participation rates for sophomore parents were particularly low and hoped to reach out to them.

Scholarship-Dr. Joel Ross explained the PTSA scholarship program and noted details were on the MAST web site. The success of the program was applauded. **It is requested that all read the scholarship policy as a vote will be taken at the November 2009 meeting for approval/revision for this school year 's awards.**

Sunshine- Madeline Brzozowski has assumed this chair and will be soliciting input from Barbara Ilaria on requirements.

Bylaws- Adam noted Bylaws were revised last year and are posted on the MAST web under the 'Parents' link. Thanks to Jill Henry, Cathy Hawn and John Fitzsimmons for their work in that regard.

Rude Awakening- Ed Plaskon reported that the first meeting for this event is scheduled this month. Contact Ed or Mary Pell for details and to volunteer for this educational experience for juniors and seniors on the dangers of drinking and driving. The date is still to be finalized for the May 2010 hosting of this program here at MAST. Many volunteers are needed, and former participants noted the volunteers get as much from the program as the guests.

Old Business:

Two of four Open Houses had been held at MAST so far this year. The PTSA had and will have a representative speaking at each session.

New Business: Adam noted that Joe Deller Senior Class President was present tonight and had been invited as part of an initiative to ask class and student council presidents to come to our meetings, for us to better understand their concerns and needs, and for them to better understand what we do and can offer.

Dwight Hakim mentioned we should seek to support the student organization 'GLAD's fund raider by eating at a local 'Surf Taco' restaurant that week/ Flyers with details were available by the sign in sheets.

The anticipated PTSA budget for the 2009 -2010 school year was briefly discussed and voted for acceptance after revision for an error.

Helene Hagen reported that this year the PTSA will again host a book fair fundraiser at three Barnes & Noble locations in Monmouth County on Tuesday December 15, 2009. Dr. Christopher, Mr. Ellithorpe and Mr. Alfonse are supporting this program to promote interest in the school ,as well as raise funds for PTSA endeavors. Approximately 45 student volunteers will be presenting and providing gift wrapping services. Parent volunteers will be needed for set up of displays, gift wrapping during daytime hours, and chaperone duties after school at the Freehold, Holmdel, and new Monmouth Mall/Eatontown B&N locations that day. A % of the total sales where MAST is mentioned **before the sale is rung up on December 15** at these locations, as well as all donations received for gift wrapping, will be returned to the PTSA. Sign up sheets will be available at the next PTSA meeting.

Special Presentation on the BBS- Ms. Betsy Hoffman presented an information session on the MAST BBS communication system for parents. The BBS is often the main avenue for parents to learn about what is going on at school, and to contact teachers and other parents. Requests for BBS accounts can be sent by parents of current students to Ms. Hoffman at bhoffman@mast.mcvsd.org

Ms. Hoffman also provided an overview of the new Naviance software program being used by students and guidance counselors in the college search process. She also wanted to familiarize parents with the 'One Call Now' system used by the district for notification of important announcements, and to request parents be sure to complete and return updated contact information on the forms being sent home shortly to parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Next PTSA General Membership Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Monday,
November 16, 2009 at 7 PM in Bldg. 77